

TUNESIEN:

Landet på vej til at blive ny politistat

**Franskmænd løsladt
efter ni måneder -
Kæmper nu for sine
medfangers sag**

Meget tyder på, at Tunis er på vej til at blive en hårdhændet politistat. Sidste års brutale reaktion på venstre-orienterede og baath-istiske studenterprotester var ganske vist en undtagelse, da den kom, men det menes ikke, at forholdene i landet er blevet stort bedre siden da, blandt andet på grund af den fortsatte magtkamp i Bourguibas enhedsparti.

Den franske agronom Jean-Paul Chabert fortalte i går i København sine egne oplevelser under politiindgrebet mod de venstre-orienterede og i de tunesiske fængsler, hvor folk knækker sammen af TB og andre lidelser allerede efter kortere ophold.

- Jeg blev underkastet konstante forhør og tortur i en uge efter min anholdelse. Jeg blev hængt op i knæene med armene bundet og blev slået under fodsålerne med en kølle.

- Hvorfor?

- Først hævdede man, at jeg var med i et komplot mod statens sikkerhed. Så indskrænkede man anklagen til at gælde, at jeg skulle have modtaget en skrivemaskine fra den kinesiske ambassade og ladet den gå videre til en tuneser, der var tiltalt for oprørsvirksomhed.

- Var De selv politisk aktiv?

- Det har jeg hverken været i Frankrig eller i Tunesien. Jeg tror man slog ned på mig, fordi en af mine venner, en kollega, var med i den tunesiske studenterbevægelse - og fordi man ville anklage en eller anden franskmænd for at få det til at se ud, som om der var tale om et komplot, der var startet ude fra

Men i realiteten ser tingene sådan ud:

I marts 1968 blev der demonstreret i universitet og gymnasier for løsladelse af en student, der havde fået 20 års fængsel for ved en tidligere lejlighed at have demonstreret foran den amerikanske ambas-

sade. De demonstrationer tog politiet og det hemmelige »police parallelle« som påskud til at anholde 300 mennesker - både blandt dem, der havde været med til demonstrationerne og andre, der ikke havde det - som var kendt for at have progressive synspunkter. Jeg blev selv anholdt senere - men i samme forbindelse.

I mellemtiden havde man nemlig fabrikeret en sag mod de anholdte: De blev beskyldt for komplot mod statens sikkerhed. Af de 300 blev 134 dømt - ingen blev frifundet.

Og den dag i dag sidder 30 af fangerne i det uhyggelige fængsel i Bizerte, det gamle franske fort, der nu er lavet om til tugthus.

Selv blev jeg dømt til to års fængsel - for at have givet en skrivemaskine videre. Og det skete endda efter at den fange, der havde sagt han fik skrivemaskinen af mig, i retten havde indrømmet, at han kun havde sagt sådan, fordi politiet tvang ham til det.

Jeg blev løsladt ved et særligt amnesti - efter fransk pres - den 20. marts i år.

Siden den dag har jeg set det som min opgave at gøre alt for at hjælpe mine fængselskammerater i Tunis. Amnesty International har taget sig af dem - og jeg ved, at de siden juli har fået noget bedre forhold, men indtil da var de også totalt isolerede fra omverdenen, måtte intet modtage, ikke skrive. Mad får man lidt af - suppe og brød to gange om dagen. Cellerne vi sad i var enten underjordiske huler eller fuldkommen overbelagt. Vi var en overgang 26 mennesker i en meget lille celle. Lægehjælp er der så godt som ingen af. Der er intet fængselshospital i Bizerte, og først hvis man får en alvorlig TB kan man regne med at blive sendt til behandling i hovedstaden. Også i Bizerte-fængslet mishandles og prygles fangerne.

AKTUELT

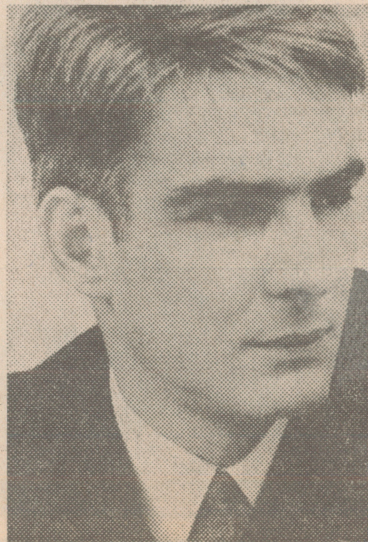
(Labour)

Lørdag 22. november 1969

- Er det stadig så galt?

- Jeg kan ikke udtale mig alt for konkret om forholdene i Tunis: Mit mål er først at fremmest at hjælpe mine kammerater. Men jeg har ikke megen grund til at tro, at tingene har ændret sig, siden jeg fik lov at forlade landet.

seid.



Jean-Paul Chabert: Han har sat alt ind på at hjælpe sine fængselskammerater

The country on the road to being a new police state.

Frenchman liberated after nine months - Now fights for his imprisoned friends

Many things indicate that Tunisia is on the road to being a rough police state. Last years' brutal reaction to the left-oriented and baathist student protests was probably an exception when it came, but that does not mean that the conditions in the country have improved since then, among other things because of the continued struggle for power within the single party of Bourguiba.

The french agronomist J-P Chabert talked yesterday in Copenhagen about his own experiences during the police interference against the left oriented people and in the tunisian prisons, where people are broken down by TB and other sufferings already after a short time.

- I was submitted to constant interrogations and torture during one week after my arrest. I was hanged up by the knees with the arms tied together and was beaten under the feet with a pole.

- Why?

- First they maintained that I was taking part in a plot against the security of the state. Then they reduced the accusation to my having received a type-writer from the Chinese embassy and let it pass on to a Tunisian, who was accused of rebellious activity.

- Were you politically active yourself?

- That I have not been neither in France nor in Tunisia. I think they attacked me because one of my friends, a colleague, was a member of the Tunisian student movement - and because they wanted to charge some Frenchman to make it look as if it were a question of a plot, that was started from abroad.

But in reality these are the facts:

In March 1968 ~~in~~ demonstrations took place at the university and at the colleges for the liberation of a student, who had been sentenced to 20 years' in prison for earlier having taken part in a demonstration outside the American embassy. These demonstrations the police and the secret 'police parallele' took as a reason for arresting 300 persons - both among those who had taken part in the demonstrations and among others who had not - who were known to have progressive opinions. I myself was arrested later - but in connection with this.

In the meantime they had created a case against the arrested people: they were accused of a plot against state security. Out of the 300 were 134 condemned - nobody was acquitted.

And today even 30 of the prisoners are in the horrible prison of Bizerte, the old French Fort, of which now has become a penitentiary.

I was condemned to 2 years' imprisonment - for having passed on a type-writer. And this happened in spite of the fact that the prisoner, who had said that he received the type-writer from me, in front of the court had revealed that he had said so only because the police forced him.

I was liberated at a special amnesty - after French pressure - on March 20 this year.

Since that day I have taken it my mission to do all I can to help my friends who are imprisoned in Tunisia. Amnesty International has assumed their case - and I know that since July their conditions have improved a little, but up to then they were completely isolated from the world outside, were not allowed to receive or write letters. Food is very scarce - soup and bread twice a day. The cells we were in were either subterranean caves or terribly overcrowded. For some time we were 26 people in a very small cell. Medical help there is hardly any. There is no prison hospital in Bizerte, and not until one has had a serious TB can one count on being sent for treatment in the capital. Also in the prison of Bizerte the prisoners are beaten and assaulted.

- Is it still that bad?
- I can not express myself too concrete about the conditions in Tunisia. My aim is first of all to help my friends. But I have not much cause to believe that things have changed since I had to leave the country.